THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Air India has recommended to initiate action to serve notice of termination of the current India-Canada Air Services Agreement and seek renegotiation of the Agreement on commercial and other technical reasons

Airport at Guntur

*236. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any memorandum from the people of Guntur for construction of an airport at Guntur; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Suggestions have been received by Government regarding shifting the present airport at Vijayawada to a new site near Guntur and construction of a new airport at or near Guntur. The suggestions were duly considered. Vijayawada was more centrally located to a number of towns/areas. If the existing airport is shifted, the expenditure incurred on it would be rendered infructuous. The drastic reduction in the Plan allocation for the Civil Aviation sector leaves very limited funds for undertaking any new schemes. For these reasons no action is being taken on the suggestions.

Asiatic Society of India

*237. SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to curb the autonomy of the Asiatic Society of India;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to continue to help in the growth of such independent Research Centres or Institutes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) There is no intention of Government interfering with the autonomy of the Society in discharging its duties and functions under the provisions of the Asiatic Society Act. 1984.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government is interested in the promotion of academic studies and research and has been helping such organisations.

Inland Waterways Authority of India

*238. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently constituted an Inland Waterways Authority of India to facilitate development of inland water transport in the country;

(b) if so, the composition of the newly constituted authority;

(c) what would be the responsibility of the authority and the manner in which the authority propose to function: and

(d) the extent to which the development of the National Waterways for Inland Water Transport is given impetus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORA (SHRI RAJESHPILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present composition of the Inland Waterways Authority of India is as follows:—

Shri Xavier Arackal—Chairman

Joint Secretary (Transport), Ministry of Surface Transport, Government of India—Member

Project Director and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forest—Member

Commissioner, (River Basin), Ministry of Water Resources—Member

(c) In terms of Section 14 of the IWAI Act, 1985 the Authority has been entrusted with the following responsibilities as regards National Waterways:—

(i) Carrying out surveys and investigation for development, maintenance and better utilisation of National Waterways and the appurtenant land for shipping and navigation;

(ii) Setting up of infrastructural facilities;

(iii) Carrying out conservancy measures and training works;

(iv) Controlling activities such as throwing rubbish etc., which may affect safe and efficient navigation;

(v) Remove or alter obstruction which may impede safe navigation and endanger safety of infrastructural facilities;

(vi) Regulation of navigation and traffic;

(vii) Regulation of the construction of structures on or across or under the National Waterways;

(viii) Disseminate navigational and meterorological information;

(ix) Pilotage on National Waterways;

(x) Co-ordination of IWT with other modes of transport;

(xi) Advising Central Government on matters relating to IWT;

(xii) Carrying out hydrographic surveys and publishing river charts;

(xiii) Assisting State Govts in formulation and implementation of IWT schemes;

(xiv) Developing consultancy services;

(xv) Conducting research on IWT; and

(xvi) Classification of waterways.

(d) The Allahabad-Haldia Stretch of the river Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hoogly has already been declared as National Waterway where schemes at a total cost of Rs. 15.58 crores relating to development of infrastructure, conservancy, navigational aids, terminals etc. have been taken up in the Seventh Five-Year Plan. Hydrographic surveys on Sunderbans have been completed. Traffic studies on Sunderbans and the river Brahmaputra have also been completed. Hydrographic surveys or Brahmaputra and Cochincuilon Section of West Coast Canal are in progress. In the Seventh Five-Year Plan, an allocation of Rs. 25.00 crores has been made for development or national Waterways.

बीजिंग में आयोजित पुस्तक मेले में नेशनल बुक ट्रस्ट द्वारा भाग न लिया जाना

239. श्री सुरेश पचौरी : क्या **मानव संसाधन विकास** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सितम्बर, 1986 में बीजिंग में आयोजित पुस्तक मेले में नेशनल बुक ट्रस्ट ने भाग लिया ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस पुस्तक मेले में हिन्दी की केवल 4 पुस्तकें थीं ; इनमें से तीन चीन के ही एक विदेशी भाषा प्रकाशन गृह ने रखी थीं ;

(ग) क्या सरकार को इस संबंध में दर्शकों से कोई सुझाव या आपत्तियां प्राप्त हुई हैं ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस बारे में की गयी कार्यवाही का ब्योरा क्या है ?